

Stamp Collecting (Year Five and Six) Lesson Three

Stamp Collecting Overview

Stamp collecting is a popular hobby in Australia and around the world and the educational benefits are invaluable. Collecting stamps as a hobby encourages self-directed learning and can foster essential skills, behaviours and dispositions such as reasoning, logic, resourcefulness and goal setting. Stamp collecting encourages students to question, compare, analyse, sequence and be inquisitive all while having fun! Every stamp tells a story and Australia Post's stamp series, releases and collections are a rich and engaging way to learn about Australian history and culture. These lesson plans have been developed to introduce your students to the concept of stamps and stamp collecting whilst teaching themes and content descriptions from the Australian Curriculum.

Lesson overview

In this lesson small groups will work on the design and production of their stamps as part of their chosen stamp issue theme. Together they will decide on the content of each stamp and the art medium they choose to create the artwork. Stamp designs will be produced in large size and finished designs will be then copied down during the printing process (Lesson Four). This is the third lesson in a series of four.

Learning intentions

Students will:

- research, explore and learn about the process of making postage stamps
- work in small groups to design and produce stamp designs
- follow a strict criteria for stamp design
- choose various art media for artworks and text

Resources

- Internet access for students
- <https://australiapostcollectables.com.au/stamp-issues>
- Examples of postage stamps, (brought in from home). Australia post also sells packs of 100 used stamps in store or online at <https://shop.auspost.com.au/product/pack-of-100-used-australian-stamps-15141081>
- Blank paper for stamp design and idea sketches
- Selected art materials and tools for creating stamps with

Assessment

- Monitoring understanding throughout class discussion and questioning.
- Collecting copies of student work samples.
- Student self-assessment
- Peer Assessment
- Teacher feedback

Differentiation

Supported: Use small group instruction to help support students.

Structured: Tasks are divided into small groups to share the work across the classroom.

Extension: Students continue working through the stamp production process.

Australian Curriculum Links

Year Five - English

Literacy:

- Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive print and multimodal texts, choosing text structures, language features, images and sound appropriate to purpose and audience **(ACELY1704)**

Year Five – Design and Technologies

Knowledge and Understanding

- Examine how people in design and technologies occupations address competing considerations, including sustainability in the design of products, services, and environments for current and future use **(ACTDEK019)**

Processes and Production Skills

- Critique needs or opportunities for designing, and investigate materials, components, tools, equipment and processes to achieve intended designed solutions **(ACTDEP024)**
- Generate, develop and communicate design ideas and processes for audiences using appropriate technical terms and graphical representation techniques **(ACTDEP025)**

Year Five – Visual Arts

- Develop and apply techniques and processes when making their artworks **(ACAVAM115)**

Year Six- English

Literacy:

- Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, choosing and experimenting with text structures, language features, images and digital resources appropriate to purpose and audience **(ACELY1714)**

Year Six – Design and Technologies

Knowledge and Understanding

- Examine how people in design and technologies occupations address competing considerations, including sustainability in the design of products, services, and environments for current and future use **(ACTDEK019)**

Processes and Production Skills

- Critique needs or opportunities for designing, and investigate materials, components, tools, equipment and processes to achieve intended designed solutions **(ACTDEP024)**
- Generate, develop and communicate design ideas and processes for audiences using appropriate technical terms and graphical representation techniques **(ACTDEP025)**

Year Six – Visual Arts

- Develop and apply techniques and processes when making their artworks **(ACAVAM115)**

General Capabilities

Literacy	Personal and Social Capability
Critical and Creative Thinking	Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Capability
Intercultural Understanding	

Lesson introduction

10 mins

1. Refer students to the approved stamp issues on the Australian Post website <https://australiapostcollectables.com.au/stamp-issues> and discuss the elements that feature on each stamp (Country, Year, Price etc.) and the consistency in design across all the stamps in one issue.
2. Design and list the criteria for the groups to create their stamps and display for all groups to refer to E.g.:

- all stamps must have: the word Australia
- The price
- The year
- perforations
- artworks and theme title
- The same colour, size and lettering style should be used on all stamps when writing words and numbers
- The artwork of the stamp must take up no less than three quarters of the space.

Main body of teaching

50 mins

3. In their groups students start the creation of their stamps. Teachers can lead groups to discuss the best ways to divide the tasks of the group, such as each student being responsible for one or two stamps, or one student is responsible for the artwork outline, another for the colouring, another for the text and stamp layout.
4. Various art materials can be put out for students to use and teachers can encourage groups to trial materials to find the type that will best depict their artworks and themes. Examples of suitable materials include: coloured pencils, crayons, markers, acrylic paints, watercolour pencils, pen and ink, watercolour paints. Students could create stamp designs that use printing, such as the use of silk screen printing, lino cuts and intaglio printing using Styrofoam. *NB: These processes can be limiting in terms of colour and may only work in black and white. Choosing to use printing processes will be determined by time and resources available and suitability to students' abilities.*
5. If available, groups could also use technology and software to create their stamp designs or parts of the design, such as the text of perforations. Teachers could also create templates for the class to use. It is suggested at this stage that each stamp design be created on A4 paper or larger, with final designs photocopied and reduced. Groups will need to have discussions throughout the design process as to whether their stamps will still look acceptable when reduced in size.
6. During the design process students, with teacher guidance, need to refer to the Australian Post stamp issue policy and the class designed criteria to ensure that their stamps will meet all the requirements. *NB: This lesson and the creation of the stamp issue could take place over a number of lessons.*

Plenary

10 mins

7. Once students have finished their stamp designs they should be reduced using a photocopier to a smaller size. This does not have to necessarily be stamp sized, but so groups can assess the quality of their design at a smaller size. For example, the stamps could be shrunk to A5 or B5 and duplicated. Another alternative is for students to scan and upload their original designs and shrink, copy and duplicate their stamp image several times on a paper to create a stamp set which is then printed out.

Extension Task Ideas

- * Students could create black and white line design stamps that could be photocopied or given to peers (including other classes) to be coloured in with pencils or markers
- * During the design process the teacher can take photos of students working in their groups. These photos can be printed and annotated and displayed with final stamp designs. Students can use these photographs to write an informative text about the process of creating stamps.